

FIELD ACTIVITIES SURVEY

Summary

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) conducted a nationwide survey to help develop standards for field activities. The survey was designed with input from the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Committee (NELAC) *ad hoc* Field Measurements Committee (a copy of the questionnaire is attached). The purpose of the survey was to collect data on the priorities for field activities standards and the certification of individuals doing field activities. The survey was distributed to the *ad hoc* Field Measurement Committee, the NELAC Committee Chairs and Board members, and other interested parties.

Results

The responses to questions on NELAC participation are shown in Table 1. A total of 45 surveys were completed and returned.

	<u>% Yes</u>
Are you familiar with the NELAC standards?	60
Are you a member of the House of Representatives?	24
Are you a member of the NELAC House of Delegates?	31
Are you a NELAC contributor?	40

Table 1. NELAC participation

The primary affiliation of respondents is shown in Table 2.

Government	<u>%</u>	Private Sector	<u>%</u>
State	40	Private Laboratory	16
EPA	7	Assessor Body	0
Other Federal	12	EPA Regulated Industry	2
County/Local Government	5	Environmental Interest Group	2
		Academia	0
		Other	16

Table 2. Affiliation

Field Standards

The responses on field standards are shown in the attached graphs. Industrial hygiene sampling and indoor air sampling had the lowest positive responses, continuous water monitoring the next highest. Over 75% of the respondents supported national standards for the rest of the field activities. The priorities for field standards were highest for water sampling and air emission source sampling. The lowest priority was given to field measurement of biological indices.

Certification of Individuals

About 60% of the respondents supported the certification of individuals doing field work. In addition, many respondents commented negatively on the certification of individuals for field activities. Among those who favored certification, the highest priorities were for air emission source sampling and water sampling.

Comments

Many respondents opposed certification of individuals, or questioned whether certification was feasible. Some respondents stated that aside from certification, some sort of field oversight, including the ability to revoke approval, was needed, particularly for emission monitoring.

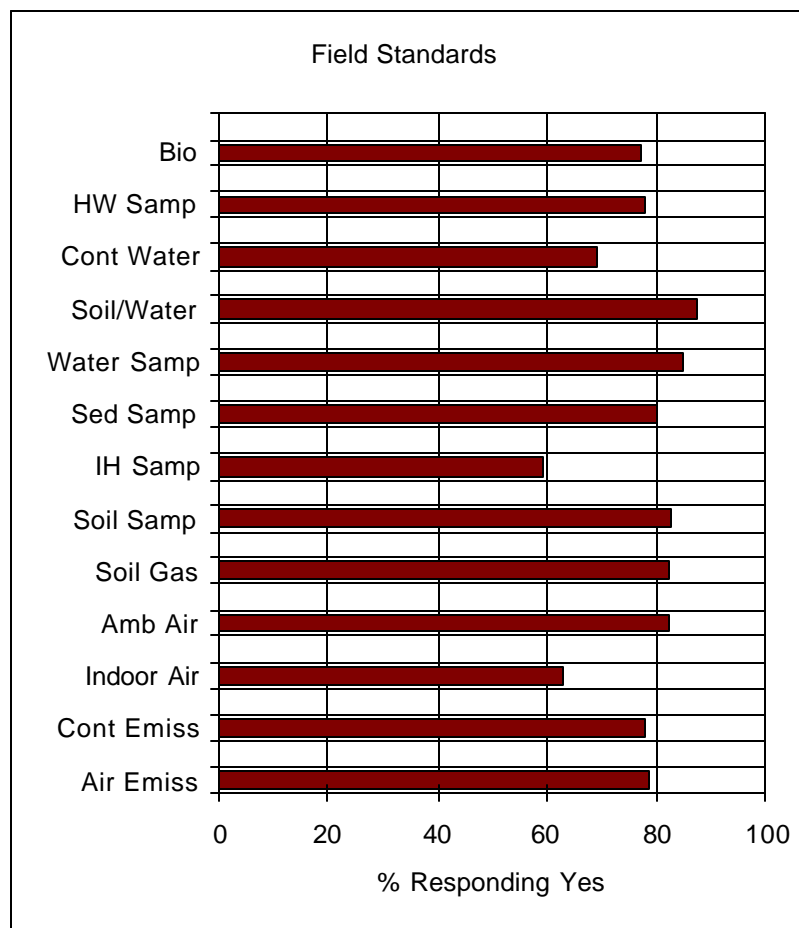
Other comments:

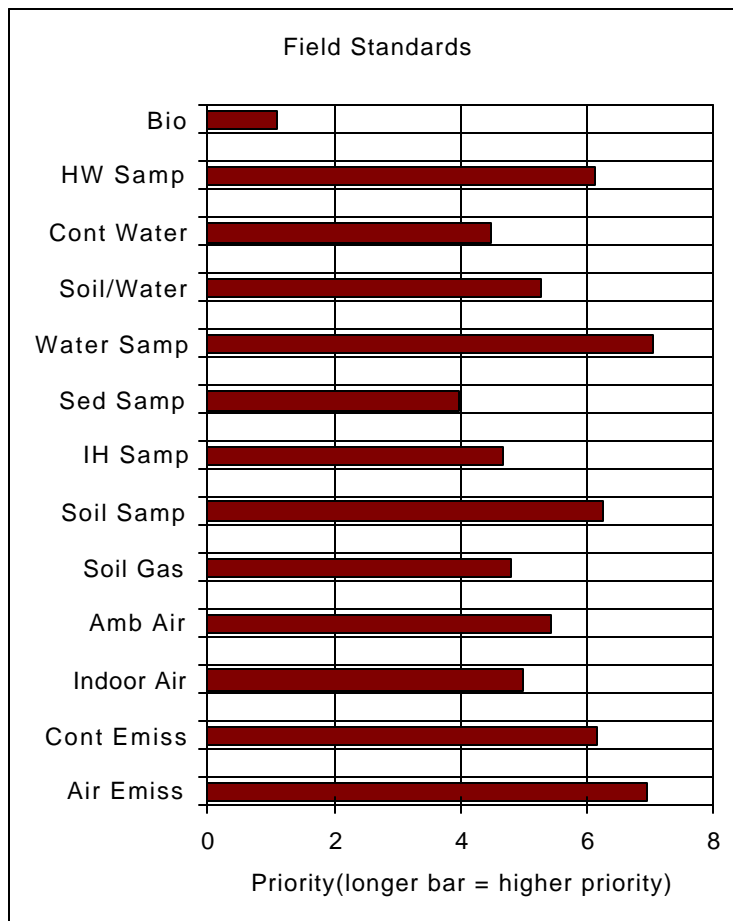
Field standards should be considered only after NELAP is up and running for at least 2 years.

The cost of meeting field standards could force small firms out of the business.

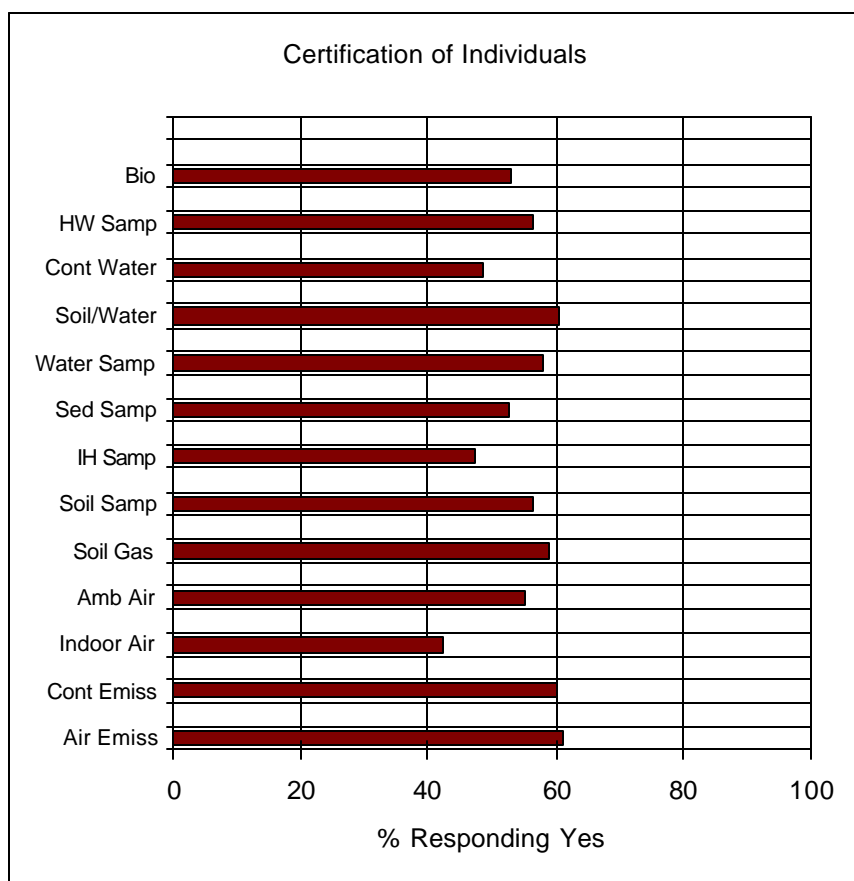
How would standards be made site-specific?

Should uniform national standards be developed for organizations which conduct the following field activities?



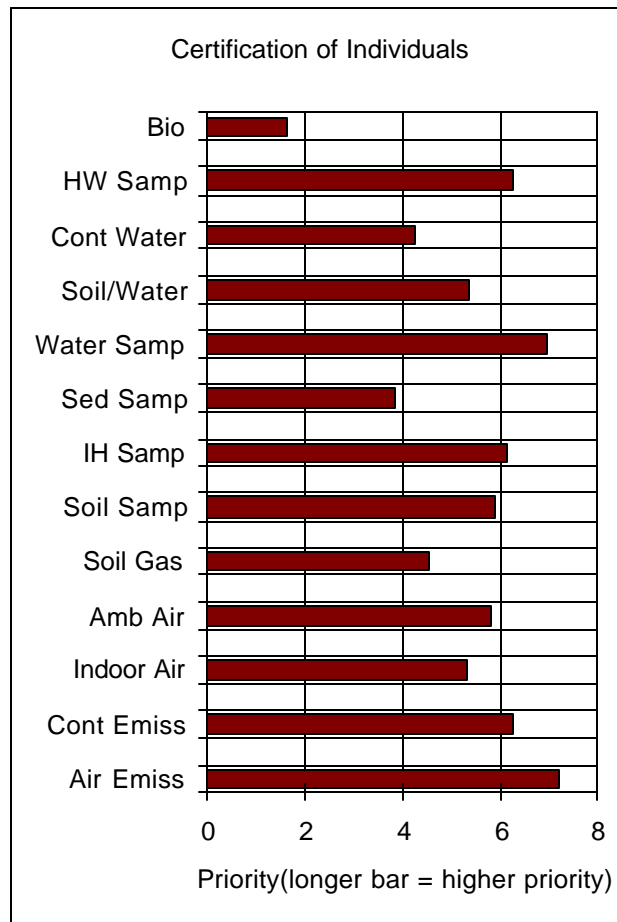


What
should be the
priorities for standard
development?



Should uniform national certification standards be developed for individuals doing the following?

If certification standards for individuals were written, what should be the priorities for individual certification standards?



Survey

Interested Parties,

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is conducting a survey of the environmental community on the issue of standards for field activities. The National Environmental Laboratory Conference (NELAC) is considering establishing standards for field activities. NELAC has already approved standards for laboratory accreditation, which will be used by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP). NELAP will approve states as accrediting authorities. The accrediting authorities, in turn, will accredit laboratories in their states using the NELAC standards.

If NELAC adopts standards for field measurements, the states could require the use of those standards for field analysis, which may require the use of approved equipment or specific quality systems. If NELAC adopts standards for the certification of individuals doing field work, some state programs may require the use of certified staff for compliance testing done in the field.

The purpose of this survey is to determine the interest in 1) standards for field measurement, and 2) certification of individuals doing certain field activities. The results will be compiled by DTSC and presented to NELAC to help guide the development of standards.

FIELD ACTIVITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

To help the development of uniform standards for field activities, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is asking your responses to the following questions.

The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) is considering establishing national standards for field activities.

	<u>Y/N</u>
Are you familiar with NELAC standards?	_____
Are you a member of the NELAC House of Representatives?	_____
Are you a member of the NELAC House of Delegates?	_____
Are you a NELAC contributor?	_____

What is your area of responsibility? _____

Primary Affiliation
(check only ONE item)

Government
 ~ State
 ~ EPA
 ~ Other Federal
 ~ County/Local
 Government

Private Sector
 ~ Private Laboratory
 ~ Assessor Body
 ~ EPA Regulated Industry
 ~ Environmental Interest Group
 ~ Academia
 ~ Other (please specify)_____

Field Standards

1. Should uniform national standards be developed for organizations which conduct the following field activities? If so, what should be the priorities for standard development?

Y/N Priority (1=highest, 2=second highest, etc.)

_____	_____	A. Air emission source sampling
_____	_____	B. Continuous emission monitoring Ambient air sampling
_____	_____	C. Indoor air sampling
_____	_____	D.
_____	_____	M. Soil gas sampling and analysis
_____	_____	E. Soil sampling
_____	_____	F. Industrial hygiene sampling
_____	_____	G. Sediment sampling
_____	_____	H. Water sampling
_____	_____	I. On-site soil and water analysis

- ☐ ☐ J. Continuous water monitoring
☐ ☐ K. Solid/hazardous waste sampling
☐ ☐ L. Field measurement of biological indices (e.g., species)

☐ ☐ N.. Other (please describe)

☐ ☐ O. Other _____

Certification of Individuals

2. Should uniform national certification standards be developed for individuals doing the following ? If so, what should be the priorities?

Y/N Priority (1=highest, 2=second highest, etc.)

- ☐ ☐ A. Air emission source sampling
☐ ☐ B. On-site soil and water analysis
☐ ☐ C. Soil gas sampling and analysis
☐ ☐ D. Soil sampling
☐ ☐ E. Sediment sampling
☐ ☐ F. Solid/hazardous waste sampling
☐ ☐ G. Water sampling
☐ ☐ H. Continuous water monitoring
☐ ☐ I. Field measurement of biological indices (e.g., species)
☐ ☐ J. Ambient air sampling
☐ ☐ K. Continuous air monitoring
☐ ☐ L. Indoor air sampling
☐ ☐ M. Industrial hygiene sampling

☐ ☐ N.. Other (please describe)

☐ ☐ O. Other _____

Comments:

Thank you for your participation. If you have questions about this questionnaire, please e-mail bsimmons@ix.netcom.com or call (510) 540-3003.

Please fax your completed questionnaire to:
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fax: (510) 540-2305

or mail to: Hazardous Materials Laboratory
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